THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Traffic rights for operation of international air services ore decided through bilateral air services consultations, which is an on-going process. Actual operation is matter of commercial judgement of the airlines designated for utilising these rights.

At present, the designated airlines of India, are operating to 28 countries.

(c) While no talks are currently in progress, this is an on-going process and talks are held from time to time.

Promotion of low cost Airlines

1584. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that established private airlines are insisting on various regulations and hurdles to be placed in the way of low-cost airlines wishing to enter the aviation sector;

(b) to what extent the DGCA is involved in creating hurdles for such low-cost airlines;

(c) to what extent Government are a party to discouraging low cost airlines firm coming up;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government agencies like DGCA and the AAI are creating financial hurdles for such airlines; and

(e) the steps proposed to formulate a new policy exclusively for the encouragement and development of low cost airlines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is a constant endeavour of the Government to promote safe airlines operation, including that of the low cost airlines. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as the regulatory authority ensures safety in aircraft operations through Rules and Regulations, which are uniformly mandatory for all airline operators.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Government does not differentiate airlines on the basis of their business model, hence no exclusive action is proposed by Government.